

BOBEA PLATYPES FOSBERG, NEW SPECIES (RUBIACEAE),
FROM MAUI, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

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This paper describes and discusses a taxon of the endemic Hawaiian genus Bobeia Gaudichaud, related to Timonius in the Rubiaceae. This species has awaited publication for some years, pending a review of the genus, but time and other commitments have not permitted completion of the study. It is presented here to be in time for consideration for inclusion in the forthcoming Manual of the Hawaiian Flowering Plants, being prepared at the Herbarium Pacificum, B. P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

Bobeia platypes Fosberg, new species.

Arbor, foliis ellipticis vel obovatis obtusis vel acutis basi in petiolis plus minusve decurrentibus, stipulis triangulo-lanceolatis, flore pistillato solitario super pedunculo 1-6 cm longo valde compresso, calyce truncato, flore staminatis in cymo triflore, calyce bilobato, drupa globosa pyrenis 8, rugosis.

Tree to 10 m tall, 1 m diam., ultimate ramification tending to be somewhat terminalioid, branchlets corky, glabrous to very slightly strigulose, tending to be squarish, somewhat fistulose, young internodes collapsing somewhat when dried, proximal internodes of a growth cycle 4-8 cm long, becoming shortened and nodes crowded distally, to as close as 5 or even 2 mm apart, internodes 3-5 mm thick, nodes prominent, 5-7 mm in widest dimension, with transverse rows of appressed straight hairs in axils of stipule scars, leaf scars prominent, orbicular to somewhat shield-shape, with a rounded V-shaped bundle scar, branchlet tips gummy; leaf blades thin, elliptic to somewhat obovate, mostly 3.5-5 cm wide, 5-10 cm long, apex obtuse to acutish, base contracted to subcuneate, main veins not prominent, 6-7 on each side, arching upward except the basal pair which are close to the margins, network fine but conspicuous on underside, lower side of midrib and margins rarely appressed hairy, petioles 1-2 cm long, somewhat flattened above, blade narrowly decurrent on petiole to halfway or even to base; stipules covering terminal bud, soon caducous, triangular lanceolate, usually acuminate, glabrous without, a densely appressed hairy triangle within on lower half; peduncles in upper axils, 1-6 cm long, 1.5-3 mm wide, strongly flattened dorsiventrally, pistillate generally shorter than staminate, with a complete or incomplete stipular collar or involucre at summit, pistillate flowers sessile, solitary in collar, calyx a truncate cup, corollas unavailable, staminate with a subsessile

central flower and two flattened branches in the involucre, each branch up to 1 cm long, ascending, with 2 connate scale-like bracts at summit, free parts very low triangular obtuse, this involucre hirsute within near base, bearing a very shortly pedicellate flower, calyx cup-like, with 2 very low, broadly rounded lobes, corolla (almost mature buds) 10-13 mm long, tube about 3 mm long, 1.2 mm thick, throat 6 mm long, 2 mm thick, lobes 4, broadly oblong, 3 mm long, imbricate, outer pair over inner, apices rounded and somewhat cuculate, outer pair somewhat auriculate at base; anthers linear-oblong, dorsifixed about 1 mm from base, attached 6.5 mm from base of corolla, pistillode 5 mm long, bifid about 2 mm; fruit globose, 6-7 mm (1 cm when ripe and crushed) diameter, disk about 3 mm across, surrounded by remains of split calyx, in center an enlarged callose style-base about 1.5 mm across and high, pyrenes 8, 4 mm long, carinate and strongly rugose on backs.

This species is distinguished from all other species of the genus by its strongly flattened peduncles, as the specific epithet chosen is intended to suggest.

It seems in several respects to belong with the B. elatior group, having leaves tending to be obovate, peduncles long, calyx truncate or shallowly 2-lobed, and drupes with 8 pyrenes, but differs in leaf-base and texture of blade, in the strongly flattened peduncle, and in the rugose dorsal surface of the pyrenes. The available material shows very little variation in most features. Lamoureux & DeWreede 4045 has the young growth, petioles, midribs, main veins and leaf margins strigose, mostly lightly so. The inner corolla lobes are very thinly strigose without. Other than this, the variation does not seem at all significant.

B. platypes grows in the extremely wet forested areas at low to middle elevations on the east and northeast slopes of East Maui, where it has been collected a number of times.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS: Maui (East): Kipahulu, west part of valley, 2600', Lamoureux & DeWreede 4045 (US, UH); Ridge at side, Kipahulu, Forbes 1666 M (BISH); Kipahulu, summit of west ridge of Kaukua Gulch, 2600', St. John & Catto 17801 (BISH, holotype, US, K, POM, isotypes); Nahiku, Forbes 259 M (Bish, US, K, POM, MO, L, A, NY, P, UC); Along ditch trail from Haiku via Honomanu Valley to Keanae, Degener 11,632 (BISH).